

Landowner's Name, Town, VT
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE PLAN
FOR
IRRIGATION PIPELINE

A properly operated and maintained Irrigation Pipeline is an asset to your property. This pipeline was designed and installed to efficiently convey irrigation water to crops. The estimated life span of this practice is at least 20 years. The life of the practice can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

1. Inspect after significant storm events and at least annually to identify repair and maintenance needs.
2. Open/close valves in a manner that prevents excessive water hammer.
3. Fill at the specified rate requirements to remove entrapped air and prevent water hammer surges. Appurtenances, such as a flow meter, weir, etc., or other means (e.g., number of turns of a gate valve) should be used to determine the rate of flow into the pipeline. If filling at a slow flow rate is not possible, the system shall be open to the atmosphere (outlets open) prior to pressurizing. The system valve(s) to the irrigation application device (gated pipe, wheel line, pivot, etc.) should be opened to release entrapped air and minimize water hammer in the system.
4. Inspect and test pipeline, valves, pressure regulators, pumps, switches and other appurtenances.
5. Check and ensure proper operation of any backflow protection devices.
6. Check for debris, minerals, algae and other materials which may restrict system flow.
7. Drain and/or provide for cold weather operation of the system.
8. Promptly repair or replace damaged or inoperable components.
9. Perform routine maintenance of all mechanical components in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
10. Prior to retrofitting any electrically powered irrigation equipment, electrical service must be disconnected and the absence of stray electrical current verified.
11. Protect the components from damage by farm equipment and livestock.
12. Repair any settlement or erosion that occurs around the pipe with soil and reseed as needed. If this problem persists, evaluate the pipe for leakage and erosion of the fill material into or along the pipe.
13. Maintain erosion protection at outlets.
14. Provide for appropriate trench safety during any excavation for repairs.

Landowner's Name, Town, VT

Specific Requirements for Your Practice

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.